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Weekend, February 28-March 2, 2014
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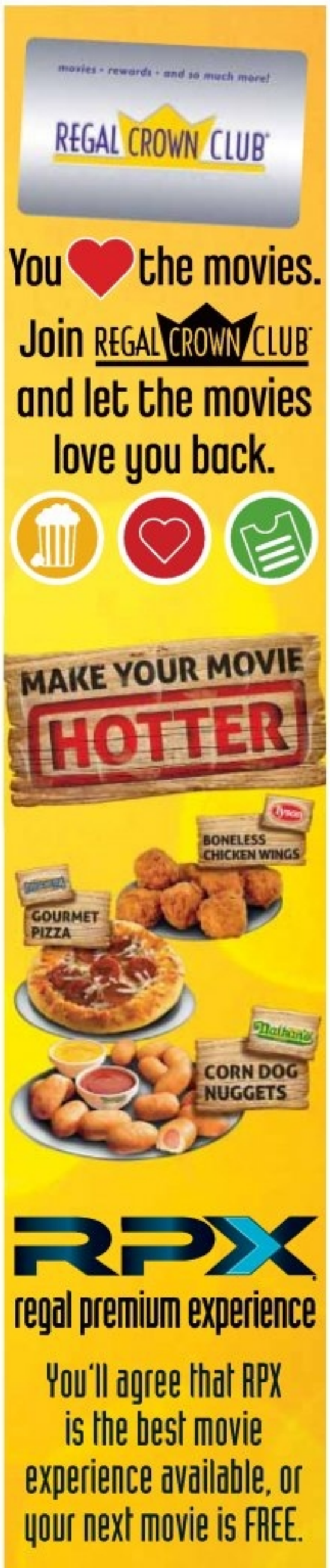
GOING for the GOLD

Trophy time. With 'Gravity' and '12 Years a Slave' in the lead, the Oscars race is ending Sunday. Host Ellen DeGeneres has promised not to sing (or do boob jokes) like last year's Seth MacFarlane.
Did you know? We look back at the award's history with trivia and make our predictions. PAGES 16-18



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NEWS

Local tweet

"Should I still have to be this worried about imminent snow in March? No. Over it."

Attagirl, @MaryAshmore.

Top 3

What's trending at Metro.us

1 'Katy Perry helps deliver baby'

2 'Winners of "The Voice": Where are they now?'

3 'PHOTOS: Lindsey Duke's sexiest pictures on Instagram'

More dough

Sanchez presents new funding plan

Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez introduced a bill at Thursday's City Council session calling for more property tax money to go to the city's schools.

"This city cannot afford another year of the doomsday budgets that have devastated our schools and set our students back," Quinones-Sanchez said. "While the state must immediately move to restore a true funding formula for education, we must also make sure we have every revenue option on the table."

Under the current system, 55 percent of the city's property tax revenue is routed to the school district. On Thursday, Quinones-Sanchez suggested the city raise that number to 60 percent.

Quinones-Sanchez estimated the change would equal about $50 million in additional school funding. METRO

Growing

UPenn plans campus expansion

UPenn released its plans Thursday to redevelop the 23-acre former DuPont Co. paint plant in Grays Ferry into a research and innovation campus for budding entrepreneurs, according to a news release. The new development is intended to offer resources for students to experiment with new technologies.

Dubbed the "South Bank Plan," the university plans to resurrect the space across the Schuylkill River from Penn Park with expanded river-front green space, and renovations and additions to the existing buildings.

METRO

By the numbers

23

The site's size, in acres

Artist James Dupree stands next to part of his upcoming exhibit, "Stolen Dreams in the Promise Zone," at his studio in Mantua. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Artist depicts struggle against eminent domain

See more at www.metro.us

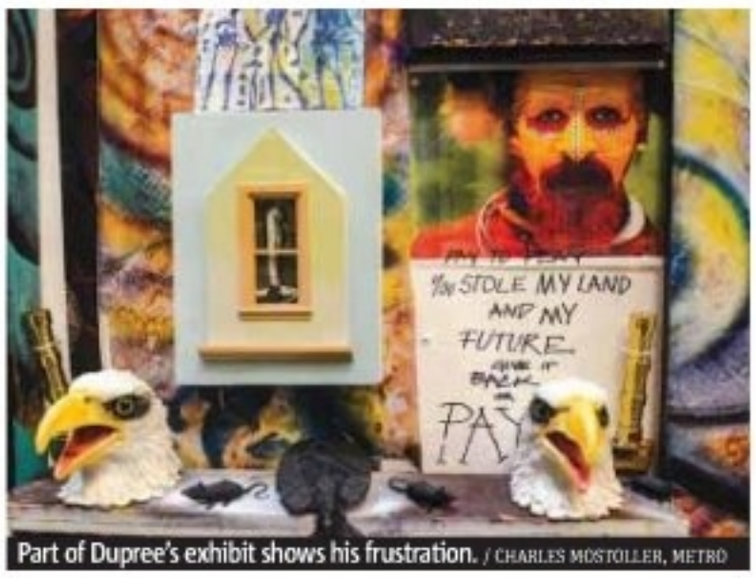
Development. James Dupree chronicles his fight with the city to keep his studio in a new art show.

James Dupree's face is carved with wrinkles. Not long ago, it didn't look this way.

"I'm an African-American artist. There's not too many of us. They don't recognize us in their American history," Dupree said. "They're killing my dreams. They don't care how hard it is for African-American artists to go to college."

On Saturday, March 1, at Dupree's gallery at 703 S. Sixth St., Dupree will unveil "Stolen Dreams in the Promise Zone" — his artistic response, mostly created in the last two months, to the city's attempts to seize his studio on Haverford Avenue in Mantua.

A massive building that Dupree renovated himself and calls his "dream studio," is just one of 17 parcels the city intends to seize, with financial compensation for owners, to build the planned Westview Plaza, which includes a large supermarket .



Part of Dupree's exhibit shows his frustration. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

"You're gonna tell me what my property's worth?" Dupree asked. "What's that land going to be worth five years from now, 10 years from now? What's the value for my family in the future?"

The show includes masks of uncertainty and depression, based on traditional African Dogon masks and art of the Yoruba tribe.

"I'm a tree. I'll tell my story through my life experiences. Color is dance and music. I'm a colorist," Dupree said.

The city offered Dupree $600,000 for his studio, but he previously had it appraised for $2.2 million. He say he's fighting for a better deal.

"The Redevelopment Authority and representatives of Mr. Dupree are working toward an amicable resolution that will accommodate both Mr. Dupree's needs and the desire to bring jobs and healthy, nutritious food to a neighborhood that needs both," said Office of Housing and Community Development spokesman Paul Chrystie.

Eminent domain

How it's legal

Eminent domain allows governments to seize private property for a public use, like building a street or a telephone pole.

The Supreme Court's 2005 Kelo ruling declared that Connecticut had the right to seize homeowners' properties to build a Pfizer tower — which was ultimately never built, instead leaving a vacant lot.

Ironically, Pennsylvania passed Senate Bill 881 in 2005 to restrict eminent domain seizures. But it didn't go into effect until Dec. 31, 2012.

Dupree was notified of the seizure Dec. 27, 2012.

Quoted

"This is a museum. It's what I've done with my little life. I can't build this again."

Dupree

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

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Official: Rendell could help bring 2016 DNC here

Host. The national convention, which picks Democratic candidates, could return.

Councilman Jim Kenney wants the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in 2016, and suggested that Ed Rendell help to attract it.

On Thursday, Kenney called for City Council to put its hat in the ring because, Kenney said, the mayor won't. "I have concerns that [Nutter's administration] slow-rolled this."

According to Kenney, Nutter was sent a letter last week from Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, asking the city to host the event. But Kenney said there was no official response from Nutter.

Shortly after Kenney submitted his request Thursday, Nutter's press secretary distributed a letter from Nutter to Schultz.

In the note, Nutter thanked Schultz for her interest, and asked for her to accept the letter and an email he sent earlier as a "formal expression of interest" in hosting.

"We will continue to do our due diligence in assessing the requirements to hold the Democratic National Convention," according to the letter.

The deadline to express interest in hosting the 2016 convention is Saturday. "I can't think of a better person than Ed Rendell," Kenney said. However, he has not reached out to Rendell, who was not immediately available for comment.

Quoted

"This is an open scene with Hillary Clinton as the favorite. This is something you should be standing on your head on Broad Street making sure we get." Kenney, on the lack of an incumbent

TOMMY ROWAN
tommy.rowan@metro.us

A mobile memorial to heroes of 9/11

A MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft lands on the deck of the USS Somerset at Penns Landing on Thursday. The aircraft can fly like a plane and a helicopter, and joined the ship for Saturday's commissioning ceremony. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

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PETA. Bryn Mawr boy, 7, finalist in Cutest Vegan Kids contest

A Bryn Mawr kid is one of five male finalists in People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' 2014 Cutest Vegan Kids contest.

One boy and one girl will be crowned the winners when online voting ends Monday. Each winner will receive a prize pack and appear in an advertisement.

Dylan Simon, 7, has been diagnosed with autism and his parents noticed an improvement in his behavior when they removed all animal products from his diet, according to a PETA news release. Now, his parents said, he speaks a lot more and is more energetic and loves to tell jokes.

Dylan Simon / PETA

Vote count is a big part of how PETA Kids will select a winner, but officials will also look at how the child shows enthusiasm for animal rights and, of course, cuteness. METRO

Dylan's bio

Dylan loves animals, said his parents, and he's very close with his cat, Jackson, and dog, Lovey.

- His favorite foods include gluten-free cashew cheese enchiladas and chips and salsa.
- Vote for Dylan at PETAKids.com/CutestVegan.

Treasures from Korea

Buddhist monks perform the Yeongsanjae Ceremony underneath a 40-foot banner of Buddha on loan for the first time outside of South Korea at the Art Museum on Thursday. The museum's new exhibit, "Treasures from Korea," features hundreds of Korean artifacts and is now open to the public. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Court. PAL leader wins asbestos lawsuit and gets reinstated

Officer Paul Zenak was vindicated when a jury found Thursday that the city had retaliated against him after he made a good faith report of wrongdoing in alerting superiors about shoddy work by a contractor assigned to clean up reported asbestos in the basement of the Wissinoming PAL center.

"He was right. He took a significant risk in speaking up and he was punished for it," said Zenak's lawyer, Aaron Freiwald.

Zenak led the PAL center for three years before in late 2011, a contractor told him there was asbestos in the homework room. When Zenak persistently asked superiors about the cleanup, he started to receive intimidating letters from superior officers.

The jury ordered the city to reinstate Zenak to PAL and pay his related medical fees. SAM NEWHOUSE

Share your story

Did you get lucky at Parx?

Starting on Saturday, Parx Casino is holding a promotion for Xclub cardholders in which they can share their "lucky" stories along with photographs for a chance to win prizes. Winners will be selected randomly and prizes include free plays, food and drink, and show tickets.

Get information at www.igotlucky.com. METRO

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2016. GOP picks eight cities to compete for national convention

The Republican National Committee on Thursday named eight cities that will compete to host the 2016 national convention to formally nominate the party's presidential candidate.

Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Ohio, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Mo., Las Vegas and Phoenix will submit bids for the chance to stage the convention in summer 2016, said RNC Chairman Reince Priebus.

A site selection committee will evaluate the bids and select one or more finalists by late spring, with the winner to be ratified by this summer. The eight cities submitting bids are the greatest number since 2000, the party said. REUTERS

Feeling faint

US Attorney General Holder hospitalized

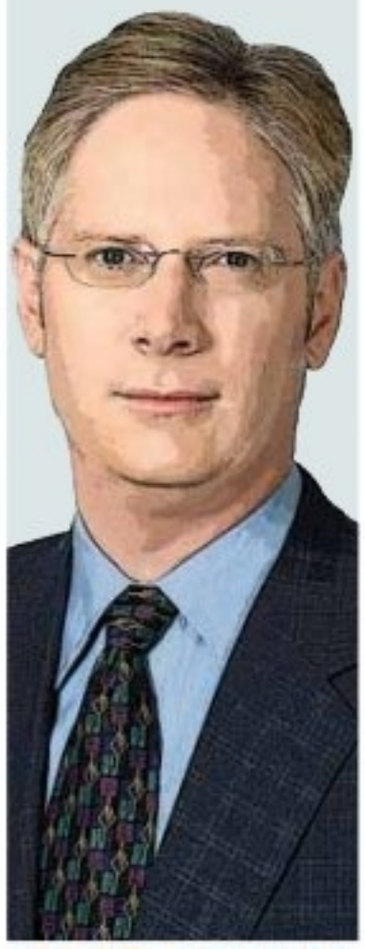
U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder was taken to a Washington hospital Thursday as a precaution after experiencing faintness and shortness of breath Thursday morning.

Holder, who has served as attorney general since 2009, began feeling sick during a staff meeting between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m., the department said in a statement. He never lost consciousness and walked out of the meeting. He was taken by ambulance to MedStar Washington Hospital Center. BLOOMBERG

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

TOM FOREMAN IS A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN.



CNN=POLITICS

HOW DO I SAY THIS DIPLOMATICALLY?

Like a lot of people who have spent years in the rough and tumble business of journalism, every now and then I think about doing something else. Usually four magical words come to mind: Pottery King of Arizona. But this week I came up with another option. I'd like to be the U.S. ambassador to Vanuatu.

It's a small island in the South Pacific with nice beaches, friendly people and no snow to shovel. At least, I think so. I've never been there, but in D.C. these days that apparently doesn't matter. Heck, the fact that I've even looked up Vanuatu on Wikipedia might make me overqualified.

The Obama administration is under fire for selecting several people to be ambassadors to countries these individuals have never seen and seem to know little about. Among the star selections: Colleen Bell, a soap opera producer, has been chosen to represent the United States in Hungary. When questioned by members of Congress about American interests there, she seemed as clueless as an actor calling, "Line!"

Quoted

The Obama administration is under fire for selecting several people to be ambassadors to countries these individuals have never seen and seem to know little about.

Also in the mix: designated ambassadors to Argentina and Iceland who have never so much as cruised past the countries where they would be stationed.

So what did these fine people do to warrant such faith from the White House? They raised money for the president's re-election. Lots of money.

Perhaps that sounds shocking, but it should not be. For decades, various administrations have followed this formula of handing about 30 percent of all the ambassadorships to political supporters (you might call them cronies), whether or not those folks are qualified. I suppose there is no harm. It's not like the world is complicated; not like the nation would want only the most qualified, experienced and educated representatives bearing the American flag.

No, the situation seems pretty darn calm, I mean aside from the Middle East, North Korea, Russia, China, Venezuela, Ukraine, the Pakistan-India border, Tibet, Myanmar, Cuba and vast swaths of Africa. So send the soap opera woman. How bad can it be?

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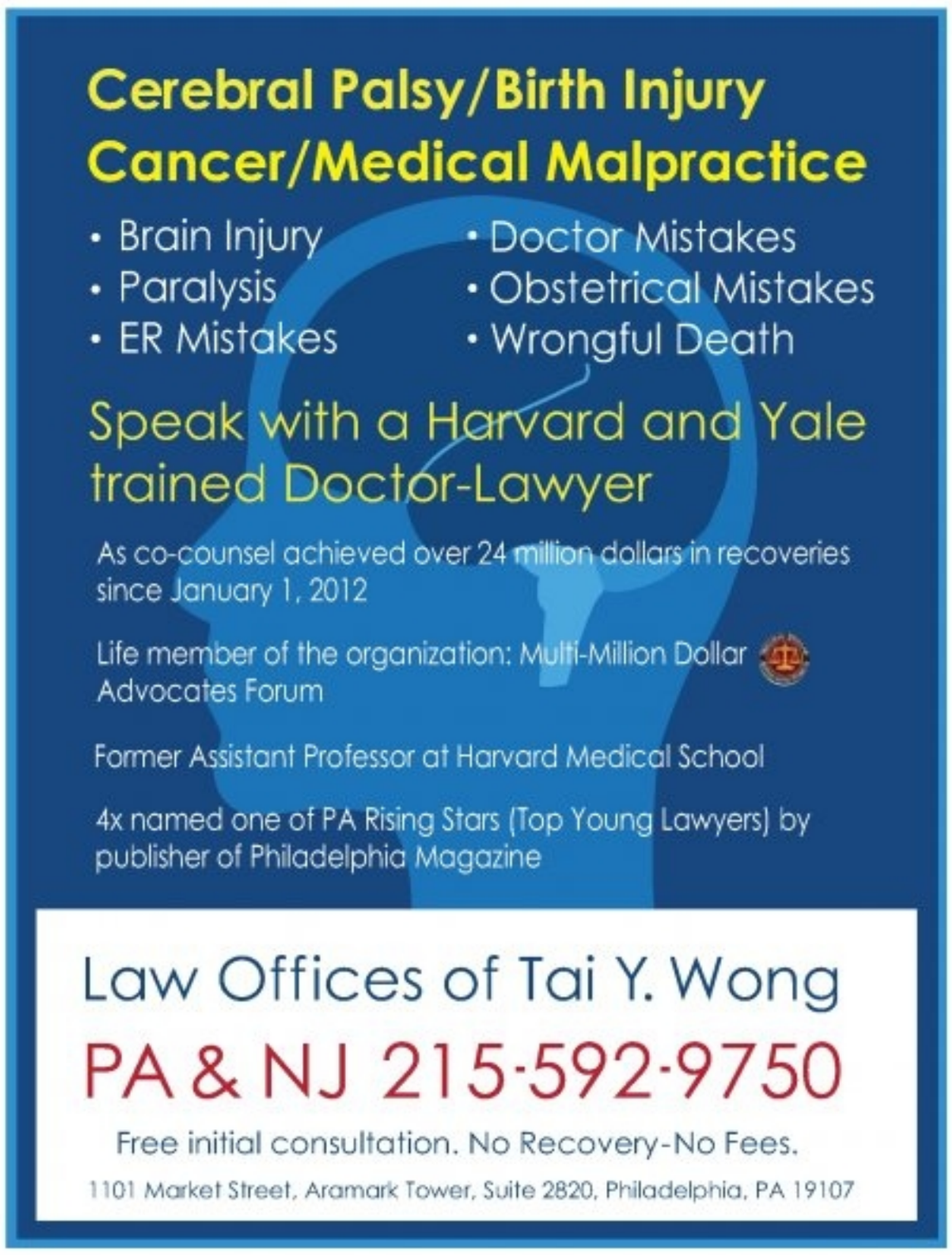
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After the sixth week:
You will obtain an erection at the slightest touch. These erections will be firmer and more durable than you ever believed possible. Not only will you be able to perform for longer durations, but now you control a penis that my have increased in length by 3 ½ inches! And think of how much more confident you will be knowing you will be the master in the bedroom!

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Herbalist Expert, DR Peter Hebert.

Responses from our Health Specialists

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Police forces intervene as a group of Russian supporters gathers in front of the parliament building after two different groups of about 60 armed men raided and occupied the regional government and parliament buildings in Simferopol, the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on Thursday. / GETTY IMAGES

Ukraine warns Russia after seizing of Crimea parliament

Military. With fighters on high alert, Russia says it will defend compatriots.

Armed men seized the parliament in Ukraine's Crimea region on Thursday and raised the Russian flag, alarming Kiev's new rulers, who urged Moscow not to move troops out of its navy base on the peninsula.

Crimea, the only Ukrainian region with an ethnic Russian majority, is the last big bastion of opposition to the new leadership in Kiev since President Viktor Yanukovych was ousted last weekend, and provides a base for Russia's Black Sea fleet.

"Any military movements, the more so if they are with weapons, beyond the boundaries of this territory will be seen by us as military aggression," said Oleksander Turchinov, Ukraine's acting president, a day after 150,000 troops in western Russia were put on alert.

Quoted

"I am appealing to the military leadership of the Russian Black Sea fleet."

Oleksander Turchinov, Ukraine's acting president

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry summoned Russia's acting ambassador in Kiev for consultations as the face-off between Moscow and the West revived memories of the Cold War.

The United States called on Moscow to avoid doing anything risky over Ukraine, which has been in crisis since November, when Yanukovich abandoned a proposed trade pact with the EU and turned instead toward Russia.

Russia said U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had proposed cooperation with Moscow to resolve the crisis during a phone call with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Thursday.

The fresh turmoil in Crimea sent the Ukrainian hryvnia tumbling to a new record low of 11 to the dollar on the Reuters dealing platform.

The International Monetary Fund said it would send a team to Kiev in the coming days.

Ukraine's new finance minister, Oleksander Shlapak, said he hoped the IMF would work on an aid package of at least $15 billion. Ukraine says it needs $35 billion over the next two years to avoid bankruptcy. REUTERS

Disclosing info

UK man hacked Federal Reserve

A British man has been charged with hacking into computer servers belonging to the U.S. Federal Reserve and then widely disclosing personal information of people who use them.

Thursday's charges against Lauri Love were announced four months after he was arrested in England.

REUTERS

Weather to blame

Yellen nods to cold weather

Unusually harsh winter weather appears to be behind recent signs of weakness in the economy, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said on Thursday.

Yellen said the Fed would watch carefully to ensure weather was indeed the culprit, but she reiterated that it would take a "significant change" to the economy's prospects for the Fed to put plans to wind down its bond-buying program on hold.

Reaction was muted on the financial markets with U.S. stocks up modestly and the dollar drifting lower against the euro. REUTERS

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SEPP BLATTER

FIFA President Sepp Blatter tells Metro that sport can still be a vehicle for social change.

'FOOTBALL IS STILL A BEAUTIFUL GAME'

About Blatter

- **Name:** Joseph (Sepp) Blatter
- **Age:** 77
- **Nationality:** Swiss
- **Career:** Has enjoyed an almost four-decade career at FIFA, starting as technical director in 1975. Before that he had brief stints at the Swiss Ice Hockey Federation and a Swiss tourism agency.
- **Interesting fact:** Has been married three times but considers FIFA his life. "FIFA is my mistress; football is my family," he recently said.

A mere national president doesn't hold a candle to president of world football (soccer to us in the United States) Sepp Blatter. Football is, after all, a game played on lawns and streets across the world — not to mention state-of-the-art pitches, with players earning multimillion dollar incomes. And Blatter himself is the most powerful leader FIFA, the game's global governing body, has ever had.

Do you think the compromise of holding Qatar's World Cup during the winter is a good one?
The FIFA Executive Committee decided in October last year to launch a consultation process. Qatar have expressed their openness to organize the tournament in June or July, but it became clear that playing in the summer heat was not a responsible thing, despite the fact that Qatar can develop the best cooling technology.

Did you anticipate the problems that awarding the World Cup to a country that's extremely hot in the summer would cause?
It was time for this region to stage a World Cup. It offers a great opportunity for the region to discover football's power as a platform for positive social change.

Football players' salaries have skyrocketed to the point where dozens are multimillionaires. As a result, boys grow up wanting to become football stars instead of going to school. Isn't this a frightening development?
Firstly, it's important to point out that it is not within FIFA's competence to intervene in the regulation of players' salaries. Football players' salaries are determined by employment contracts between football clubs and the players themselves. Secondly, it's worth highlighting that education is at the core of many of FIFA's development programs. FIFA invests heavily in grassroots and development projects throughout the world. Academies are a key part of this where youth players — many of whom would otherwise not have had an opportunity to gain an education — can train together while attending school or apprenticeship courses. You mention boys, and in this context we should also talk about girls.

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British spy agency collected images of Yahoo webcam chats

Kept in the dark. Yahoo said it had no knowledge of the interceptions.

The spy agency eventually excluded images in which the software had not detected any faces from search results to prevent staff from accessing explicit images, it added. / COLOURBOX

Britain's spy agency GCHQ intercepted millions of people's webcam chats and stored still images of them, including sexually explicit ones, the Guardian newspaper reported on Thursday.

GCHQ files dating between 2008 and 2010 provided to the newspaper by former U.S. National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden revealed that the surveillance program, codenamed Optic Nerve, saved one image every five minutes from randomly selected Yahoo webcam chats and stored them on agency databases.

Optic Nerve, which began as a prototype in 2008 and was still active in 2012, was intended to test automated facial recognition, monitor GCHQ's targets and uncover new ones, the Guardian said. It said that under British law, there are no restrictions preventing images of U.S. citizens being accessed by British intelligence.

"It is a long-standing policy that we do not comment on intelligence matters," a GCHQ representative said on Thursday.

In another sign of the widespread information-sharing between U.S. and British spy agencies that has riled the public and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic, the webcam information was fed into the NSA's search tool and all of the policy documents were available to NSA analysts, the paper said.

It was not clear, however, whether the NSA had access to the actual database of Yahoo webcam images, the Guardian reported.

"We were not aware of nor would we condone this reported activity. This [Guardian] report, if true, represents a whole new level of violation of our users' privacy that is completely unacceptable," company spokeswoman Suzanne Philion said in an emailed statement.

Snowden, now in Russia after fleeing the United States, made world headlines last summer when he provided details of NSA surveillance programs to the Guardian and the Washington Post. REUTERS

Images

1.8M

GCHQ collected images from the webcam chats of more than 1.8 million users globally in a six-month period in 2008 alone, the newspaper reported.

Currency. Japan says any bitcoin regulation should be international

Any regulation of the bitcoin cryptocurrency should involve international cooperation to avoid loopholes, Japanese vice finance minister Jiro Aichi said on Thursday.

Commenting on the closure this week of Tokyo-based Mt. Gox, once the world's biggest exchange for the bitcoin virtual currency, Aichi said the ministry would respond to the problems "if necessary," after finding out exactly what happened.

"It's not just the Ministry of Finance; many other agencies are related," Aichi told a news conference.

The Mt. Gox website and Twitter feed went blank on Tuesday after weeks of turmoil. It suspended withdrawals on Feb. 7 following a series of cyber attacks.

A document circulating on the Internet saying that more than 744,000 bitcoins — worth around $423 million at current rates — were missing from Mt. Gox was created by a Tokyo-based consulting firm, said Ryan Selkis, a blogger who initially leaked scans of the document. Selkis, who uses the handle "twobitidiot," said in an email that the "Crisis Strategy Draft" had been written by consulting firm Mandalah in meetings with Mt. Gox CEO Mark Karpeles. REUTERS

Quoted

"As for its legal position, a currency [under Japan's jurisdiction] would be coins or notes issued by the Bank of Japan. At the very least, we can say Bitcoin is not a currency."
Aichi

Cyber attacks

US attorney subpoenaed Mt. Gox

Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara has sent subpoenas to Mt. Gox, other bitcoin exchanges and businesses that deal in bitcoins to seek information on how they handled recent cyber attacks, a source familiar with the probe said. A spokesman for Bharara declined to comment.

Mt. Gox is under investigation by the U.S. federal law enforcement, according to a second source familiar with the case, while a third said the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation was monitoring the situation.

The federal probe was spurred by information provided by the Bitcoin Foundation, an advocacy group for the digital currency, Bloomberg reported. The foundation could not be reached for comment. Mark Karpeles, a founding member of the foundation, resigned from its board Monday.

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"Gravity," starring George Clooney and Sandra Bullock as astronauts, is one of the big frontrunners at this year's ceremony. / WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Oscar time. Host Ellen DeGeneres swears she won't croon like Seth MacFarlane did last year.

It's that time again. The end of the annual film calendar is nearly upon us, with the 86th Academy Awards set for Sunday evening. Here's a sample of what to expect on Hollywood's biggest night.

As you know, Sunday's ceremony will be hosted by Ellen DeGeneres. Returning producers Neil Meron and Craig Zadan say the theme for this year's Oscars is a salute to heroes and heroines of all stripes, celebrating everything from "Norma Rae" and "Captain Phillips" to "Harry Potter" and "Ghostbusters." There will also be a segment celebrating the 75th anniversary of "The Wizard of Oz."

Music will be a big part of the ceremony, which is great considering so many bold-faced names are nominated in the Best Song category. (Performances of the nominated songs were skipped altogether in 2010 and 2012.) U2 ("Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom"), Pharrell Williams ("Despicable Me 2"), Karen O ("Her") and Idina Menzel ("Frozen") will all take the stage, as will Pink and Bette Midler for other performances. But DeGeneres has already insisted that she herself won't be singing, unlike last year's host, Seth MacFarlane.

With 46 famous faces presenting over the course of the night, it's going to be a busy stage. Presenters include previous winners Jennifer Lawrence, Christoph Waltz, Kevin Spacey and Angelina Jolie, plus popular names such as Zac Efron, Channing Tatum and Kristen Bell. One we're definitely excited about is "Vertigo" star Kim Novak, making a rare public appearance at the ceremony.

This marks the 13th year the Oscars have been presented in the same venue, though the name has changed. What was the Kodak Theatre up until 2011 is now known as the Dolby Theatre. And if the ceremony feels long, just be thankful it's not 2000 anymore. That year, the proceedings clocked in at a whopping four hours and four minutes, while they generally average around three and a half hours long. The first Oscars in 1929, by the way, lasted 15 minutes — if only.

Michael Fassbender, Lupita Nyong'o and Chiwetel Ejiofor are all nominated for "12 Years a Slave." / FRANCOIS DUHAMEL

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Trivia

Host with the most

Ellen DeGeneres reprises her role as the ceremony's host, following her last turn at the gig in 2007. She's got a long way to go to get into the record books though, as Bob Hope holds the title with 19 hosting appearances, while Billy Crystal sits comfortably in second place at nine. And Whoopi Goldberg holds the title for most appearances by a female host, with four. For more Oscar trivia, see page 18.

THE ACADEMY AWARDS WILL AIR ON SUNDAY, MARCH 2 AT 8:30 P.M. RED CARPET BEGINS AT 7 P.M.

Read 'em and weep. As ever, books served as inspiration for many of the nominated films

If you're looking for some reading material, the Academy's Best Adapted Screenplay category is a good place to start — though you'll be searching Amazon in vain for "Before Midnight," as it's considered "adapted" because it's based on the characters from previous films "Before Sunrise" and "Before Sunset." But you always can cozy up with these:

- **"A Captain's Duty: Somali Pirates, Navy SEALs, and Dangerous Days at Sea,"** the book by Richard Phillips (with co-writer Stephan Talty), became "Captain Phillips," with Tom Hanks stepping in to portray Phillips' hijacking by Somali pirates.
- **"The Lost Child of Philomena Lee"** by Martin Sixsmith became "Philomena" starring Dame Judi Dench as Lee and Steve Coogan as former BBC presenter Sixsmith. Coogan admits he took a lot of liberties with the details of their journey for the sake of making a more cohesive and entertaining film.
- **"12 Years a Slave,"** the harrowing 1853 memoir of Solomon Northup, became the film of the same name. It was originally published with the lengthy subtitle "Narrative of Solomon Northup, citizen of New-York, kidnapped in Washington city in 1841, rescued in 1853, from a cotton plantation near the Red River in Louisiana" — which, honestly, gives away the ending.

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

- Reading Jordan Belfort's own accounts of his exploits in the memoir **"The Wolf of Wall Street"** might help illuminate why the film's chronicle of bad behavior seemed so infatuated with its subject, who earned $1 million for the movie rights.
- Over in the Best Documentary category, you can pick up Jeremy Scahill's **"Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield"** if you want to learn more about the troubling details in the nominated film "Dirty Wars." Even the Best Original Screenplay category inspires some further reading. "American Hustle" was originally much more fact-based in its retelling of the Abscam scandal. If you want to know the real story, check out Robert W. Greene's "The Sting Man: Inside Abscam."

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Tally up

Our Oscar predictions

We're going to go ahead and call most of the races all locked up, but there is still room for surprises — Best Supporting Actress and Best Picture seem particularly hard to pin down. But we're pinning them down anyway! If you win your office pool with this, we get a cut, OK?

MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

Who will win:

- **Best Picture:** "12 Years a Slave"
- **Best Director:** Alfonso Cuaron, "Gravity"
- **Best Actor:** Matthew McConaughey, "Dallas Buyers Club"
- **Best Actress:** Cate Blanchett, "Blue Jasmine"
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Jared Leto, "Dallas Buyers Club"
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Lupita Nyong'o, "12 Years a Slave"
- **Best Original Screenplay:** Spike Jonze, "Her"
- **Best Adapted Screenplay:** John Ridley, "12 Years a Slave"
- **Best Animated Feature:** "Frozen"
- **Best Cinematography:** "Gravity"
- **Best Documentary:** "The Act of Killing"
- **Best Foreign Language Film:** "The Great Beauty"
- **Best Original Score:** Steven Price, "Gravity"
- **Best Original Song:** "Let It Go," "Frozen"
- **Best Editing:** "Gravity"
- **Best Visual Effects:** "Gravity"
- **Best Production Design:** "The Great Gatsby"
- **Best Costume Design:** "American Hustle"

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Julia Roberts and Meryl Streep are both nominated for "August: Osage County." / THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Did you know?

By the numbers. Meryl Streep just beat her own record! That and other Oscar trivia tidbits await you.

- While her odds of winning are pretty long, Meryl Streep's nod for Best Actress in "August: Osage County" marks her 18th Oscar nomination, breaking the record for most nominations earned by an actor or actress previously held by ... Meryl Streep.
- If Jennifer Lawrence wins for Best Supporting Actress in "American Hustle" — she's considered neck-and-neck with Lupita Nyong'o — she'll become the youngest person to win two acting Oscars. She'd also be the first actress to win back-to-back awards in different categories and for the same director. She's already the youngest actress to earn three nominations.
- Best Actor nominee Leonardo DiCaprio and Best Actress nominee Amy Adams are currently tied at five career nominations and zero wins each.
- With his nomination for "The Book Thief," John Williams extends his ridiculous lead as the living person with the most Oscar nods, at 49. If you factor in the deceased, he's catching up to 60-time nominee Walt Disney.
- "Frozen" composer Bobby Lopez, one of the songwriters nominated for Best Song favorite "Let It Go," would become the 12th person in show business history to achieve the EGOT — winning an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony.
- David O. Russell's "American Hustle" is the 15th film to earn nominations across all four acting categories (his 2012 film "Silver Linings Playbook" was the 14th). Other notables on this list include "Network," "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

AMY ADAMS

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Liam Neeson lacks special skills

Thriller. The Oscar-nominated actor plays against type as an incompetent would-be-savior in "Non-Stop."

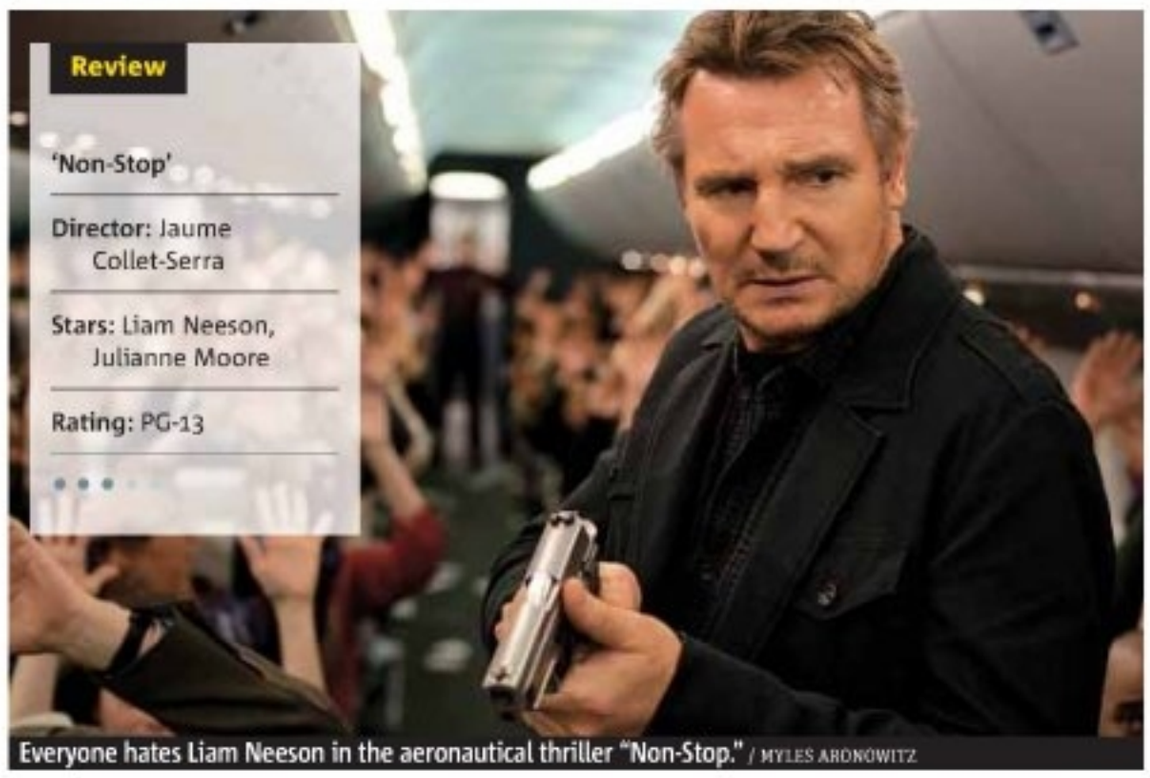
Review

'Non-Stop'

Director: Jaume Collet-Serra

Stars: Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore

Rating: PG-13


Everyone hates Liam Neeson in the aeronautical thriller "Non-Stop." / MYLES ARONOWITZ

It can be easy to forget these days, but Liam Neeson is a real, Oscar-nominated actor who's played historical figures, famous lit personages and everything. But he's only slightly less excellent in the Charles Bronson-esque, aging ass-kicker roles that have come to dominate his career. The key to "Taken," "The Grey" and the new "Non-Stop" is the gravitas he brings to roles that probably could have been played by Sylvester Stallone or Jean-Claude Van Damme or even Eric Roberts. Part of Neeson knows this is junk, but another part of him knows that watching Oskar Schindler bash heads and electrocute baddies shouldn't be mere novelty.

Neeson's latest old-ish man thriller finds him as Bill, an air marshal whose latest flight is plagued by a killer who tells Neeson, over text, he wants $150 million or else.

The real twist though is that Bill isn't a hero. He's a haunted alkie. Like Denzel Washington in "Flight," he spikes his coffee as he comes on duty. When things get hairy, he doesn't toughen up; he screws up. The passengers quickly come to hate him, because he's terrible at crowd control and doesn't remotely seem like he knows what he's doing, because he doesn't. A thriller frontman hasn't been this enjoyably bad at his job since Denzel Washington in another vehicle, "Out of Time."

Neeson won't win any awards for this, nor should he. But he dives right in, seeming to delight in playing a character who's all flaws, who won't calm frayed nerves, who can't intimidate baddies and goodies alike with boasts about his "special set of skills." He has none — or he has some, as in the lone scene in which he brings some hurt during a nifty tussle in the cramped confines of an airplane bathroom.

Neeson's excellent portrayal of badness greatly helps what's otherwise a mostly routine, extremely silly if sometimes clever programmer, in which every character takes turns as a suspect. It's predictable that the whole thing falls amusingly apart in the final stretch; the villainous motive doesn't even make sense. But it moves reasonably well, and best of all it has personality, not only in Neeson but in Julianne Moore — relaxed and flirty as a passenger who's either an ideal love interest or an ideal psychopath.

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For believers' eyes only

Jesus movie. "Son of God" makes you pay to rewatch scenes from "The Bible" miniseries.

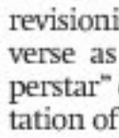
A long time ago, Hollywood was in the biblical behemoth business. Their fall from grace, if you will, explains why the multiplexes are occasionally polluted with strange, cost-cutting and questionable numbers like "Son of God," which — unlike the cinema of, say, Kirk Cameron, — doesn't even have the decency to offer new material.

See more at www.metro.us

In fact, if you're paying to see it, it's likely you've seen it before: It's been pulled and edited down from the smash hit miniseries "The Bible." It winds up focusing on the most familiar part of his life: when he walked into the hornet's nest of Jerusalem, angered the local Jewish officials and suffered a bloody, horrible, galvanizing death.

Give "Son of God" this: It doesn't pretend to placate the secular. This is a straight-up for-the-believers production that doesn't hide its religious fervor. At the same time, it doesn't want to be TBN kitsch. It has a touch of polish. But the actors are still wide-eyed and cheesy. They lack nuance, as does the film, which is how it likes it; strong actors would add too much character. It wants to do the Passion without any of that pesky revisionism in films as diverse as "Jesus Christ Superstar" or "The Last Temptation of Christ."

Thing is, the best biblical films do allow an in for nonbelievers. One of the best Christ pictures — 1964's "The Gospel According to St. Matthew" — was made by a gay atheist, Pier Paolo Pasolini. That film, made in the Italian neo-realist style, stressed the social justice aspect of Jesus' work. "Son of God" almost entirely ignores that. Its Jesus does little but look hot and do magic. Say what you will about Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," but it had a sense of cinema. "Son of God" doesn't. It falls under the term "junk for Jesus" — cynical attempts to fleece the faithful with religious trinkets.



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Former model Diogo Morgado plays a hot, smiling Jesus in "Son of God." / CASEY CRAFFORD

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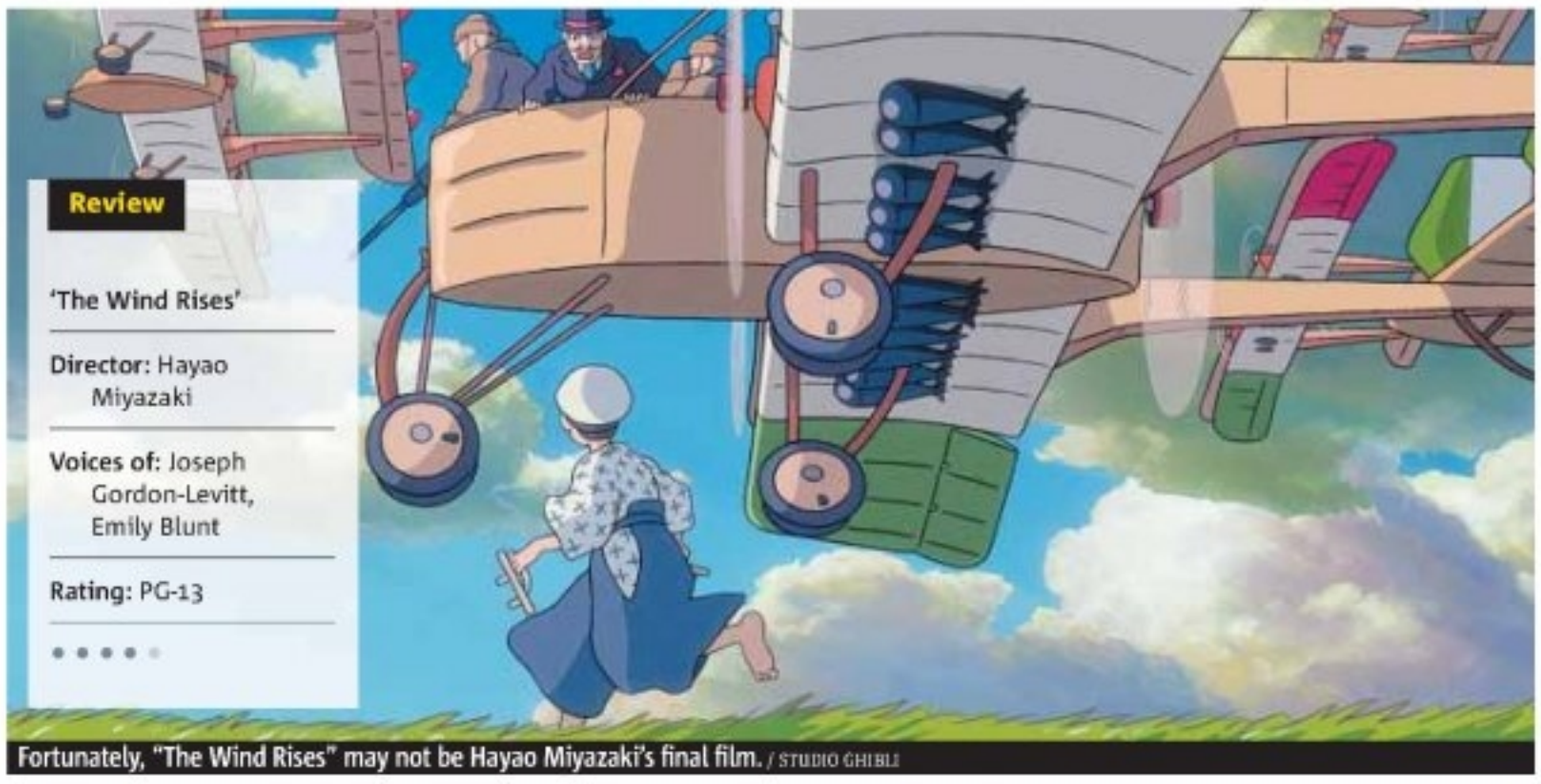
Miyazaki might be back



Fortunately, "The Wind Rises" may not be Hayao Miyazaki's final film. / STUDIO GHIBLI

Animation. A legend's latest is not his final film, as he once said, but it is one of his best.

Legendary Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki ("My Neighbor Totoro," "Spirited Away") has reneged on his retirement plans. For whatever it's worth, "The Wind Rises," his latest but (maybe) not last, would make a great swan song. It's the definition of an old master's work, one that brings all that Miyazaki's learned to bear on a reflection on his craft.

Miyazaki portrays a different kind of artist, one with whom he shares a vague affinity. His protagonist, Jiro Horikoshi (voiced, in America at least, by Joseph Gordon-Levitt), designed fighter planes during World War II. He would seem an odd person for Miyazaki to lionize, given that many of his films are passionately anti-war. But in Horikoshi he sees a kindred spirit: an artist driven to create what he dreams, but who has to use his talents for business needs with which he may not agree.

Horikoshi's timing was awful: He came into plane design in time for the beauty of wooden vehicles to go out, making way for metal and WWII. Horikoshi tries to design a style of plane that is thin, light and brutally functional.

But the war is, for the most part, off-screen. Horikoshi works in a bubble. He busies himself in drawings and math (and eventually romance). The film shows that war, like any business, works by having individual, key parts — say, the guy who designs planes — work divorced from the rest of the machine. He labors without thinking of the many who will die from what he creates. It's the rare delightful, soothing film about war, not to mention one that runs through regrets and an understanding of one's mortality and imperfections.

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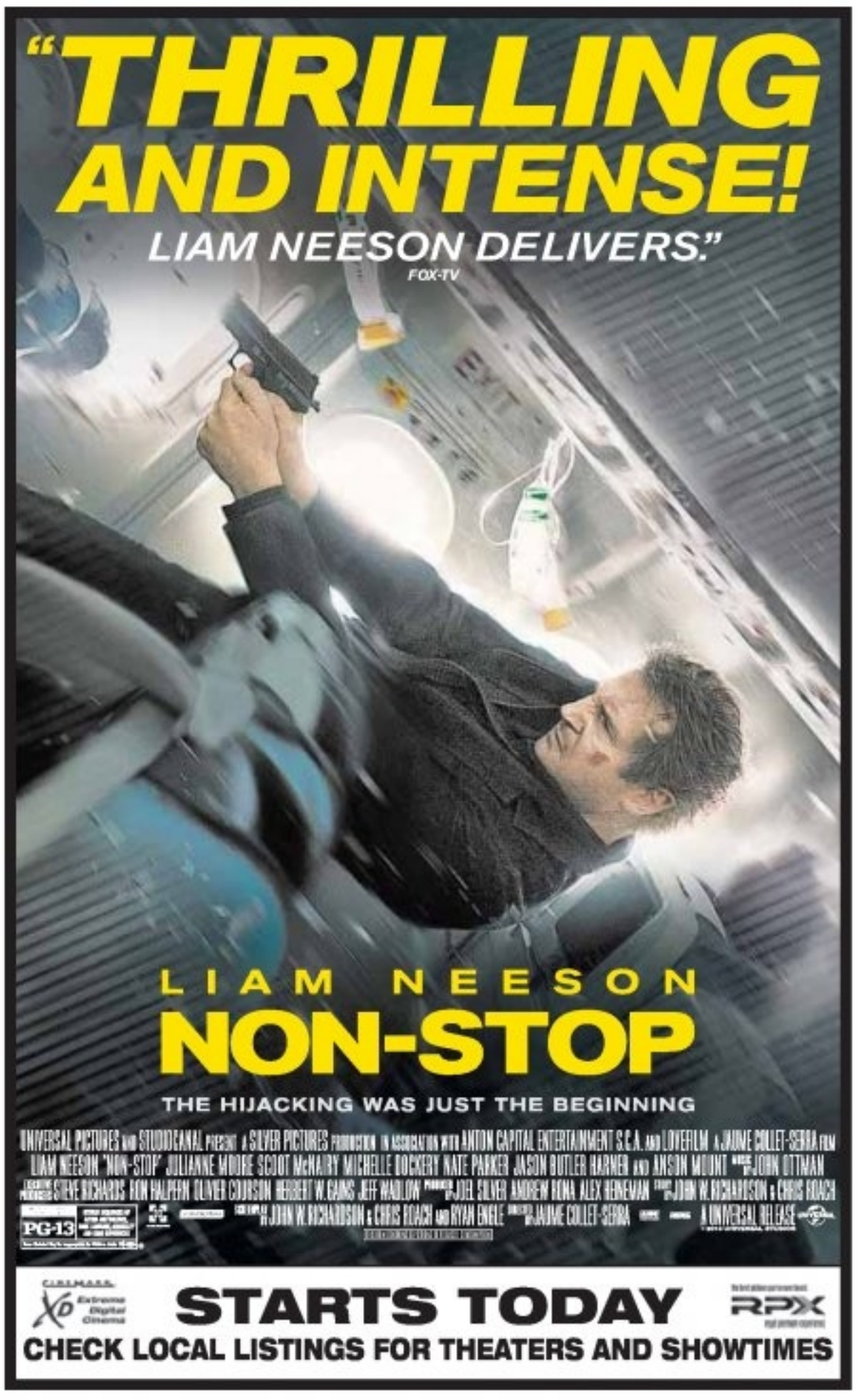

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PHILOMENA (PG-13) Fri 10:35, 1:00, 3:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat 11:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 5:30-7:50-10:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
POMPEII (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:50, 6:05, 11:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:50-6:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
POMPEII 3D (PG-13) 10:20, 3:25, 8:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
REPENTANCE (R) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35, 11:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) 10:00, 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri 12:20, 3:15, 8:30, 11:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 12:20-3:15-6:00-8:45-11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:20-3:15-6:00-8:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SON OF GOD (PG-13) Fri 10:00, 12:30, 1:00, 3:45, 7:00, 10:00, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:30-12:30-1:30-3:45-7:00-10:10-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-12:30-1:00-3:45-7:00-10:10-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
STALINGRAD: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (R) Fri and Sat 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:35. IMAX;RealD 3D; Sun 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:35-10:30. IMAX;RealD 3D
THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) 12:30, 5:00, 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WIND RISES (KAZETACHINU) (PG-13) 10:45, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Neshaminy 24
215-396-8050
Route 1 and Bristol Rd.
2014 BEST PICTURE SHOWCASE Sat 12:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
3 DAYS TO KILL (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:15, 12:30, 2:00, 3:20, 4:45, 6:15, 7:45, 9:15, 10:50, 12:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:15-12:30-2:00-3:20-4:45-6:15-7:35-9:15-10:20. Digital Presentation
ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri and Sat 9:35, 12:15, 3:10, 6:05, 7:50, 8:55, 10:35, 11:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:35-12:15-3:10-6:05-7:50-8:55-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) Fri and Sat 1:20, 7:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:40-7:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ANCHORMAN 2: SUPERSIZED (R) Fri 9:30, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:25-12:45-4:00-7:15. Digital Presentation
ANCHORMAN 2: SUPERTICKET PREMIUM (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30. Digital Presentation
ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) Fri 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20. Digital Presentation; Sat 7:40-10:20. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:10-2:00-4:50-7:30-10:05. Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) 9:40, 12:35, 3:35, 6:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
HAIRBRAINED (PG-13) Fri 11:00, 1:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat 11:00-1:50-4:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-1:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 11:45, 2:35, 5:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri and Sat 10:00, 11:10, 12:50, 1:55, 3:30, 4:45, 6:20, 7:45, 8:50, 10:25, 11:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-11:10-12:50-1:55-3:30-4:45-6:20-7:45-8:50-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
LONE SURVIVOR (R) Fri and Sat 10:25, 4:35, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 4:45-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: PRINCE IGOR (NR) Sat 12:00.C INDEPENDENT
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:50, 1:55, 5:00, 7:55, 10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:50-1:35-4:35-7:25-10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NON-STOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:30, 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 9:00, 12:00. Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 11:00-1:45-4:30-7:30-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-12:30-3:15-6:00-9:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-1:45-4:30-7:30-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB (PG) Fri 4:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 4:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PHILOMENA (PG-13) Fri 10:35, 4:20. 171371;AMC INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video; Sun 10:35-4:20-9:45. 171371;AMC INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video
POMPEII (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:45, 12:20, 3:15, 6:00, 8:45, 11:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-12:20-3:15-6:00-8:45. Digital Presentation
POMPEII 3D (PG-13) Fri 10:55, 1:40, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05. Real D 3D; Sat 1:40-4:40-10:40. Real D 3D; Sun 10:55-1:40-4:40-7:25-10:05. Real D 3D
REAR WINDOW (1954) (PG) Sun 2:00. CLASSIC SERIES;Digital Presentation
REPENTANCE (R) Fri and Sat 10:10, 12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:10-12:35-3:05-5:30-8:00-10:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri 9:50, 12:25, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:10-6:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:50-12:20-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri 10:05, 12:55, 6:40, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:05-12:55-4:25-7:25-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-12:40-3:45-6:40-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SON OF GOD (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:30, 12:45, 4:00, 7:20, 10:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-11:30-12:45-4:00-7:20-10:35. Digital Presentation
STALINGRAD: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (R) 9:25, 12:40, 4:00, 7:10, 10:25. IMAX;RealD 3D
THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) Fri and Sat 9:30, 12:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WIND RISES (KAZETACHINU) (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:15-10:10. Digital Presentation
WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) Fri 1:10, 6:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 1:10-6:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 9:05. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation; Fri 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Plymouth Meeting Mall 12
888-AMC-4FUN
Next to Plymouth Meeting Mall
12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) Fri 11:05, 7:25.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 3:25.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri 11:40, 1:30, 2:10, 4:40, 6:25, 7:10, 9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:45-1:15-3:45-6:20-7:50-9:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-12:15-1:15-3:45-5:10-6:20-9:00-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ANCHORMAN 2: SUPERSIZED (R) Fri 12:40, 3:50, 7:15, 10:30. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:00-1:05-4:05-7:15-10:20. Digital Presentation
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) Fri 3:45, 9:20.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 5:10-10:20.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) Fri 11:35, 2:15, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:20-1:00-3:50-6:35-9:15. Digital Presentation
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) Fri 11:10, 4:00, 9:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat 5:30-10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 10:00-2:50-7:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) Fri 11:45, 5:00, 10:05. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 10:15-3:30-8:40. RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri 2:20, 7:30. Digital Presentation; Fri 12:45-3:30-6:10-8:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:50-6:00. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:25-2:00-4:35-7:15-9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:25-2:00-4:35-7:10-9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: PRINCE IGOR (NR) Sat 12:00.C INDEPENDENT
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri 11:00, 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:35-1:25-4:15-7:00-9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NON-STOP (PG-13) Fri 11:15, 12:00, 1:50, 2:35, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 7:55, 10:00, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:30-11:15-1:15-2:00-4:00-4:45-6:45-7:30-9:30-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-11:15-1:15-2:00-4:00-4:45-6:45-7:30-9:30-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB (PG) Fri 11:20, 1:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:25-12:40-2:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PHILOMENA (PG-13) Fri 2:05. 171371;AMC INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video; Sat and Sun 10:10-6:30. 171371;AMC INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video
SON OF GOD (PG-13) Fri 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-1:10-4:20-7:25-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-2:10-5:20-8:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) Fri 6:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 8:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) Fri 4:35, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:35-9:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Woodhaven 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 13, near I-95 and Woodhaven Road exit
3 DAYS TO KILL (PG-13) Fri 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:40. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:45-1:50-4:30-7:20-10:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-1:50-4:30-7:20. Digital Presentation
ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri 2:40, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:20-2:40-6:00-8:30-11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-2:40-5:55-8:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) Fri 4:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 11:15-4:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri 12:15, 1:45, 3:00, 5:30, 6:45, 7:45, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:15-12:45-1:45-3:15-5:45-6:45-7:45-9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-12:45-1:45-3:15-5:45-6:45-7:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri 2:15, 5:00, 7:10, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 11:20-2:15-5:00-7:10-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:20-2:15-5:00-7:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NON-STOP (PG-13) Fri 12:45, 2:05, 3:25, 4:50, 8:00, 9:15, 10:10, 10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-11:30-12:50-2:05-3:25-4:50-8:15-9:15-10:10-10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-11:30-12:50-2:05-3:25-4:50-8:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
POMPEII (PG-13) Fri 4:45, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 11:00-4:45-10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-4:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
POMPEII 3D (PG-13) Fri 2:00, 8:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 2:00-8:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:00, 5:05, 7:50, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:00-5:05-7:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SON OF GOD (PG-13) Fri 12:30, 1:30, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:30-12:35-1:35-3:45-4:55-7:30-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-12:35-1:35-3:45-4:55-7:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

Bryn Mawr Film Institute
610-527-9898
824 West Lancaster Avenue
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) Fri 7:00; Sat and Sun 1:15-7:00.
CANDLESHOE (G) Sat 11:00
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) Fri and Sat 4:00, 9:30; Sun 4:00.
GLORIA (R) Fri 4:15, 7:30, 9:45; Sat 1:30-4:15-7:30-9:45.; Sun 4:15-7:30.
HER (R) Fri 7:00; Sat and Sun 1:15-7:00.
NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: CORIOLANUS (NR) Sun 1:00
OMAR (NR) Fri 4:30, 7:15, 9:45; Sat 1:45-4:30-7:15-9:45.; Sun 1:45-4:30-7:15.
THE PAST (LE PASSE) (PG-13) Fri and Sat 4:00, 9:30; Sun 4:00.

Hiway Theatre
215-886-9800
212 Old York Road
DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX (PG) Sun 10:10

Reel Cinemas Narberth 2
610-667-0115
129 North Narberth Avenue
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 7:10. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri 4:30, 9:40. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sat 11:10-1:50-4:30-9:40. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sun 11:10-1:50-4:30. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sat 1:40-4:20-7:00-9:40. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sun 1:40-4:20-7:00. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating

Regal Marketplace 24
800-326-3264 341
180 Mill Road
3 DAYS TO KILL (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:55, 10:40. CC-Closed Captions
ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) 12:05, 3:05, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 12:50, 3:55, 7:25, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
ANCHORMAN 2: SUPERSIZED (R) 12:15, 3:45, 6:55, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) 12:35, 3:20, 6:35, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
FROZEN (PG) 1:25, 4:00, 6:45, 9:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
HIGHWAY (NR) 12:25, 3:25, 6:30, 9:30
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 12:45, 3:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 11:50, 1:00, 2:25, 3:35, 6:20, 7:40, 8:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Vide;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 12:20, 1:35, 2:55, 4:20, 5:35, 7:05, 8:15, 9:45, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LONE SURVIVOR (R) 4:55, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: PRINCE IGOR (NR) Sat 12:00
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) 12:30, 3:15, 4:50, 6:40, 7:45, 9:40, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
NON-STOP (PG-13) 11:55, 1:50, 2:30, 4:30, 5:10, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE NUT JOB (PG) 12:10, 2:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
POMPEII (PG-13) 1:30, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
POMPEII 3D (PG-13) 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive V;in RealD 3D
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri 1:05, 3:40, 6:25, 9:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; Sat 6:25-9:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; Sun 1:05-3:40-6:25-9:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
ROBOCOP (PG-13) 1:40, 4:35, 7:35, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
SHAADI KE SIDE EFFECTS (NR) 3:00, 6:15, 9:25
SON OF GOD (PG-13) 11:50, 12:40, 1:20, 3:50, 4:25, 7:00, 7:30, 10:10, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE WIND RISES (KAZETACHINU) (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 6:10, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

Ritz 5 Movies
215-440-1184
214 Walnut Street
12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) Fri 3:35, 6:30, 9:20; Sat and Sun 12:15-3:10-6:30-9:20.
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 12:45, 7:10
GLORIA (R) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50
IN SECRET (THERESE) (R) 3:30, 9:45
PHILOMENA (PG-13) 12:25, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
THE WIND RISES (KAZETACHINU) (PG-13) 1:00, 7:00. SUBTITLED; 4:00-9:40.

Ritz East
215-925-4535
2nd Street between Walnut and Chestnut
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:25
HER (R) 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15

Ritz at the Bourse
215-440-1181
400 Ranstead Street
2014 OSCAR NOMINATED ANIMATION SHORTS (NR) 1:00, 7:05
2014 OSCAR NOMINATED LIVE ACTION SHORTS (NR) 3:40, 9:30
A CLOCKWORK ORANGE (R) Fri 12:00
INSIDE LLEWYN DAVIS (R) 4:00, 9:35
NEBRASKA (R) 1:05, 6:50
OMAR (NR) 1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 9:40
THE ROCKET (NR) 1:30, 3:50, 7:00, 9:45
TIM'S VERMEER (PG-13) 1:20, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40

The Pearl Theatre at Avenue North
215-763-7700
1600 North Broad Street
3 DAYS TO KILL (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40, 12:20; Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40.
ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri and Sat 12:00, 2:20, 3:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20, 10:10, 12:00; Sun 12:00-2:20-3:20-4:40-7:00-9:20-10:10.
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 12:00, 9:30
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 2:30, 4:50, 7:10
NON-STOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 10:00, 12:30; Sun 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:20-10:00.
POMPEII (PG-13) Fri and Sat 2:50, 7:30, 12:10; Sun 2:50-7:30.
POMPEII 3D (PG-13) 12:30, 5:10, 9:50
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri and Sat 1:00, 5:30, 7:50, 12:30; Sun 1:00-5:30-7:50.
SON OF GOD (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40, 12:00; Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40.

'I'm a pacifist'

Interview. The aging action hero of "Non-Stop" talks about how he's actually a nice guy in real life.

Liam Neeson is aggressively soft-spoken. Even in a relatively intimate conference room with a microphone at the ready, his voice is just barely audible. He's so gentle and shy — yet confident and, at 6-foot-4, imposing — that it's not surprising when the now 60-something action star utters, in response to how he would handle the hairy situation in his new movie "Non-Stop," these three words: "I'm a pacifist."

He does elaborate, a bit. "Thankfully, I've never been in this situation. You like to think you would be heroic. But who knows?"

Still, his offscreen ethos hasn't kept him from becoming, in his AARP age, a Charles Bronson-style action star. Two decades ago Neeson was Oskar Schindler. Today he's in "Non-Stop," in which he plays an air marshal taunted by a mysterious killer mid-flight.

Neeson is quick to point out this isn't to be taken seriously, even given the setting. "It's entertainment," he insists. "A lot of journalists in Europe were asking about September 11. Oh, please." That said, he knows he can only be cavalier about this in 2014. "I don't think the film could have been made a few years ago. It would have been totally insensitive."

It's worth noting that "Non-Stop" isn't another "Taken" or "The Grey" or even "Unknown," also directed by Jaume Collet-Serra. It's a thriller, not an action film, and it only features one (admitted doozy) of a fight, in the tight confines of a plane bathroom.

"On this film we didn't want to do martial arts. It'd be corny," he confesses. "Whatever physical altercations happen on the airplane, we wanted to make them real. I worked quite closely with a Special Forces guy who trains air marshals. We came up with the fight in the bathroom based on stuff that he was trained to do. We tried to keep it real — and exciting, of course."

For him, learning action techniques is like learning anything. "You learn it and then you forget it," he admits. "It's like learning a dance. Or when you study for exams. You forget it. Except for how to work a lightsaber — I know that."

Of course, nice as Neeson is, he's not that nice. Asked what happens when people come up to him in the airport, he says, "I just tell them to f— off." He's kidding. We think.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Liam Neeson is much, much gentler than the characters he often plays these days. / WIREIMAGE

Character flaws

The dark side

There's another distinctive aspect about "Non-Stop": Neeson is no hero. He's an alcoholic, and his actions are so sloppy that everyone onboard quickly learns to hate and mistrust him.

"I like to play these so-called 'action heroes' as vulnerable. They're nervous. I always try to portray a weakness," he says. But this guy is different. "He's an alcoholic and he's an addict. That's what's in charge. His big battle is he thinks he can't get through even a six- or seven-hour flight without having a couple short ones. It's the little human gestures like that that I think resonate with people. Many of us are addicts, if it's tobacco or whatnot. I like those human touches."

Interview. Magician Teller turns filmmaker with a documentary about recreating art

Only one thing happens in "Tim's Vermeer," and it's a doozy: One Tim Jenison makes a Vermeer. A wealthy inventor, Jenison became interested in a theory that certain photo-realistic post-Renaissance-era paintings, particularly those by Johannes Vermeer, may have been created with the use of early optics.

The majority of "Tim's Vermeer"'s short length is devoted to Jenison recreating "The Music Lesson." Does he prove the thesis? And if he does, does that discredit the work of Vermeer and his ilk? Directed by the magician Teller, with partner Penn Jillette as producer, it doesn't play like their skeptic show "Bulls—!" Instead it mostly observes as Jenison tirelessly, brush by brush, concocts his semi-forgery. It's more meditative than ruminative, allowing minds to roam about art and the nature of creation. As with many good films, it's the destination, not the outcome, that matters, and "Tim's Vermeer" has the spacious room to allow one to get lost in one man's impressively herculean busy work.

Review

'Tim's Vermeer'

Director: Teller

Genre: Documentary

Rating: NR

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The myth of Diana

Dance. Renowned African-American troupe Philadanco goes classical for a collaboration with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Members of Philadanco will perform to composer Francis Poulenc's "Aubade." / PROVIDED

If you go

'Firebird and Cinderella'

Friday, 2 p.m.
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Kimmel Center
Broad and Locust streets, $63-$128,
215-893-1999
www.philorch.org

When choreographer Tommie-Waheed Evans sat down with the artistic staff of the Philadelphia Orchestra, he had no idea they had already decided to hire him.

"I was thinking this meeting was just, you know, 'You meet me; I meet you, and I'll hope that you call me when you make a decision,'" says Evans, after a recent rehearsal. "But then they turned to me and said, 'OK, you're going to be the choreographer.' And they immediately had me sit in on a rehearsal with the orchestra, and pure excitement just started pouring out of me when I heard that music."

This weekend Evans and the orchestra debut their collaboration: a modern interpretation of Francis Poulenc's "Aubade," starring five female dancers from Philadanco, the world-renowned African-American dance troupe. For Evans — a thoroughly modern choreographer — this marks his first foray into classical music. "This is a first of a first of a first for me. It's the first time I'm working on a classical music-driven piece. It's the first time I'm working with live music and the first time I'm working with an orchestra."

But don't expect Balanchine-esque neo-classical movements to accompany the orchestra this weekend. After a few fits and starts, Evans is shooting for a totally unique take on Poulenc's music. And, while the dance is inspired by the myth of Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt, he doesn't feel constrained by the idea of narrative ballet either.

"'Aubade' is really a fun assignment, because almost every time it's been done, it's been done a different way," says Evans. "The whole 'story ballet' thing just isn't me right now. Still, everything I'm bringing to it really starts with the music. I can't be something I'm not. But what I'm trying to do is marry what I hear in the music and who I am as choreographer. I need to find where those two things meet."

"Aubade" will be presented as part of "Firebird and Cinderella," featuring concertos by Stravinsky and Prokofiev, and led by guest conductor Stephane Deneve.

BRUCE WALSH
letters @metro.us

TV watch list

LENA DUNHAM
PROVIDED

DRAMEDY

'Girls'

Hannah's mother tells her, "Grandma's going to die." When they go visit her in the hospital, Hannah introduces her grandma to Adam, who announces they are getting married.
SUNDAY, 10 P.M., HBO

DRAMA

'True Detective'

Hart and Cohle investigate a string of disappearances that may be tied to the Dora Lange murder and the Tuttle family.
SUNDAY, 9 P.M., HBO

COMEDY

'Saturday Night Live'

Jim Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory" makes his hosting debut. Beck returns for his seventh appearance as musical guest.
SATURDAY, 11:30 P.M., NBC
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Taming a wild Band of Horses

Stripped down. Their new album, "Acoustic at the Ryman," began as a happy accident, but now they're doing an intimate tour based around it.

Band of Horses play the Merriam Theater, 250 S. Broad St., March 1 at 8 p.m. / CHRISTOPHER WILSON

Band of Horses didn't plan on going on an acoustic tour. They didn't even plan on releasing an acoustic album. But, according to guitarist/keyboardist Ryan Monroe, it just sort of happened.

"We recorded a random acoustic set opening up for ourselves at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville and it turned out really well," he says. "In the back of our heads we were kind of hoping that we would get an imitation of that. We liked what we heard and it was about time to put out a new record. So we were like, 'Hey this is cool, let's do this.' We kind of planned the tour around the record, which was kind of an accident."

A happy accident, as it turns out. Band of Horses' brand of lilting, folksy indie rock seems tailor-made for acoustic performance — so much so that it's rather surprising that they haven't recorded an acoustic album until now. The delicate melancholia of tracks like "The Funeral" find new, wistful life on the acoustic album, for which the band is currently on a limited-engagement tour.

The stops on the tour are all far more intimate venues than those a band of their stature would usually play: smaller theaters and clubs that lend themselves to a stripped-down performance. "It's a really fun learning experience for all of us," Monroe says. "To be able to hear each other better onstage is great. We can hear deeper dynamics, and we can better communicate, musically."

Not that this is a band that has ever had much trouble finding musical harmony. With four critically well-received studio albums under their belts, Monroe says that now, more than ever, the band is in a place where they can make exactly the kind of music they want to make.

"Now we can throw out those little nuggets whenever we want," he explains. "And, as far as what music to release, and what to write, we feel like we can do whatever we want. We really do believe that notion."

That said, fans can expect some new tricks from Band of Horses on their next studio release.

"[Singer] Ben [Bridwell] has been writing a lot, really trying to hone in on his songwriting craft, and [his writing] has been a lot darker. I think 'Mirage Rock' was a little bit of a brighter record; it's time to go back full circle," Monroe says. "We're going to go back into the studio in April and get down; it's going to be a conglomeration of everything we've learned — good and bad — from our experiences of being in this band. It's going to be an electrified record because we are definitely ready to crank it back up."

Q&A

Dream collaboration

We asked Monroe about some of his favorite artists and with whom he'd like to work. (Hint: He's going to need a time machine.)

If you could collaborate with anyone, who would you choose?
I'd like to write a song with Bill Callahan, just so he could chill me right out.

If you could see any artist, living or dead, perform, who would it be?
I just watched a Big Star documentary. I'd like to see all those dudes playing live, in 1976 or something.

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
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Miniature Tigers, Bear Hands

Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
Boot & Saddle
1131 S. Broad St.
$13, 267-639-4528
www.ticketfly.com

The Brooklyn-based indie boppers have been putting out their brand of dreamy, synth-heavy tunes since 2006's "Octopus EP." Led by frontman-guitarist Charlie Brand's playful yet powerful vocals, the charming indie darlings have toured with Fun and Ben Folds, and are now on the road with fellow Brooklyn post-punk group Bear Hands.

Wizard Eye, Tungsten

Saturday, 8 p.m.
Kung Fu Necktie
1250 N. Front St.
$5, 215-291-4919
www.ticketweb.com

East Coast trio Wizard Eye have been releasing epic, hearty helpings of rock 'n' roll since banding together in 2007. Their album, "Orbital Rites," is a doom metal-meets-psychedelic road trip, with tracks that alternately chug along in typical metal fashion followed by what can only be described as an attempt to blast you into outer space. It'll be the perfect pairing for Philly's own Tungsten, whose progressive take on classic metal gets new life from frontwoman Madelaine Novak's daring vocals. Showgoers beware: This concert is not for the faint of heart. **KASIA PILAT**

Check it out

St. Vincent

Friday, 8:30 p.m.
Union Transfer
1024 Spring Garden St.
SOLD OUT

Annie Clark, the force behind St. Vincent, has been wonderfully incomprehensible from day one. Her pixie-like appearance belies the heaviness of her music, a weird yet perfect blend of dance, chamber pop, rock and electronic that can feel like an ecstatic, symphonic bludgeoning. On top of that, she has the gall to be a guitar heroine (and release an album earlier this week that might be the best of 2014). It's sold out, but finding scalped tickets would be worth it. **MATTHEW DINARO**

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And now the nominees for worst-dressed actress ever at an Oscars ceremony

As we prepare for the Academy Awards, it's important to keep in perspective that these beautiful stars are far from perfect.

The worst

1 Anne Hathaway, 2013
Last year, Hathaway was rocking it in the dress department all awards season long, winning every prize she could for her portrayal of Fantine in "Les Miserables." The anticipation was high for her Oscar gown (her winning the Best Supporting Actress statuette was a given). So when she stepped out of the limo wearing ... this ... everyone was perplexed. As it turns out she was to wear Valentino, but when she learned Amanda Seyfried's gown was similar to hers, she switched it up at the last moment to this shapeless Prada disaster.

2 Geena Davis, 1992
Geena Davis could become the first female president of the United States and this dress will still be mentioned in her obituary. She wore this mullet gown (with black hose!) when she was nominated for her role in "Thelma and Louise." It still hurts us to look at it.

3 Angelina Jolie, 2000
Remember when Saint Angelina was actually goth? Those were the days. The actress wore this Morticia Addams-like frock when she accepted her Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in "Girl, Interrupted." That night she also open-mouth-kissed her brother. So, you know, no place else to go but up.

4 Kate Hudson, 2001
Guys. This is just the best. The best! Kate Hudson was only 21 at the time (she was nominated for Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Almost Famous") but this getup makes her look at least 60. And at least like she's auditioning for the Grand Ole Opry. When she (very-rightly) landed on everyone's worst dressed list, she called up Stella McCartney, who designed the dress. "I called Stella and we just laughed our arses off and she said to me, 'Look, babe, it was the hair wasn't it?'" she remembered years later. Yes — it was the hair.

In defense of Bjork

Bjork, 2001
Bjork's infamous swan gown from 2001 is constantly on everyone's "worst-dressed Oscar dresses of all time" list. That shouldn't be so. It was not bad or ill-fitting or a bad fashion choice. It was a freaking work of art! There's a big difference between the two.

Talking points

Rihanna recycles her old loves

Everything old is new again, including the R&B love triangle that is Rihanna, Drake and Chris Brown. Rihanna recently enjoyed a Paris outing with the Canadian rapper, who traded blows with Brown at a New York club in 2012 in what was said to be an argument about her. And Rihanna has reportedly been exchanging text messages with ex-boyfriend Brown, who is still on probation for assaulting her five years ago, according to the NY Post. "Chris started texting Rihanna on her birthday [on Feb. 20], and the two have been sending each other a flurry of texts ever since," a source says. "Friends are freaked out that she's going to start dating him again."

Did twerking cause the Thicke split?

There was plenty of outrage about Robin Thicke and Miley Cyrus' aggressively sexual routine at the MTV Video Music Awards back in August, and apparently Paula Patton was among those put off by the grinding and gyrating. A source tells Us Weekly that the risque performance left Patton feeling "utterly disrespected" and was a key factor in her decision to separate from Thicke after nine years of marriage. In fact, the pair reportedly got into a screaming match over the stunt. And while Patton laughed off the incident in interviews, it was apparently only because of Thicke's pleading. "He asked her to help him out as a friend and a wife, and defend him and the performance," a source says. "He begged her to speak out for him and be there for him. She agreed to be the good wife after he begged and pleaded."

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Be sensitive in your dealings with loved ones. If they feel you are holding back, it may cause irreparable damage.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Don't try so hard. It isn't necessary to go to extreme lengths to gain the approval of your colleagues.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Recreation and entertainment are the order of the day. Romance, travel or interesting pastimes will generate excitement. Put mundane activities on hold for the time being.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. There are many places where your talents can be put to good use. Make others aware of your capabilities.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Even if you are happy with life, new and rewarding experiences are worth checking out. Take advantage of opportunities that promise to broaden your horizons.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Cultivate beneficial partnerships, deal with unsatisfying financial matters and initiate new strategies for moving forward.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Use a direct approach in all your affairs today. Be assertive when asking for what you want. Sitting back quietly will do nothing.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. It's a good day to reassess your love life. If you are not satisfied, now is the time to make a positive change. Consider the needs of others as well as your own.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. You'll become irritated and upset over minor issues. Bite your tongue and save your energies for more important matters.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Put your worries on the back burner. Disagreements will lead to bitterness. Get outside and enjoy nature.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. You have good ideas and should plan to move forward. The encouragement you receive will help you reach your destination.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. You may have been neglecting your self-improvement goals. Engage in some physical activity, and you will be rewarded.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	4			5	8	9		
	1	2						
		8	1	9				4
	7			4		5		3
		3		8		1		
8		1		2			9	
7				3	2	6		
						2	4	
		4	7	6			5	

8			1					5
	4	3			5			
7	5	1				3	6	
	6			3			7	2
4	3			6			8	
	7	9				2	1	8
			8			9	5	
5					2			7

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Like a bridge falling into troubled waters

Re: 'Obama shows plan to fix nation's crumbling infrastructure' (Metro, Feb. 27) Trying to stay relevant, President Obama put forward a plan to spend $302 billion to fix the nation's crumbling roads and bridges. Congress (both Democrats and Republicans) says there is little chance of that happening because it relies on tax reform for funding. Didn't we already spend $850 billion for infrastructure — called a "stimulus package," in 2009? Where did that money go, Mr. President?

JOE ALLOY, VIA EMAIL

Don't make efforts in vain

Re: 'Time to say, "So long, Kabul"' (Metro, Feb. 27) I'd like to respond to the question posed by letter writer Michael Ragsdale about the United States' presence in Afghanistan: "Isn't it time we demand to leave the nation?" It certainly would be nice if we could bring our troops home. But, before we do so, we must ensure that there's no danger of the Taliban coming back to power.

JOHN FRANCIS FOX, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

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Interactive Crossword

Crossword

Across
1 Boarded up
5 Fundraisers, often
10 Hull bottom
14 Mystique
15 On the lookout
16 Berne's river
17 Close-mouthed one
18 Dainty ornament
19 Ore truck
20 Soup alternative
22 Public spectacle
24 Like a hermit
27 "Ugh!"
28 Unsure
32 Carbonated waters
35 Anka's "— Beso"
36 Trades jabs
38 Favors one side
40 Greedy sorts
42 Snake plate
44 Tourist center of Japan
45 Ridicule
47 Steakhouse order (hyph.)
49 Author Anais —
50 Gets close
52 Overflow
54 Delays, with "off"
56 Singer — Adams
57 Narrowed down
60 Wide cravat
64 "— Ha'i"
65 Be in store
68 Past the deadline
69 OPEC country
70 Divulges a secret
71 Lens opening
72 Tartness
73 "Skyfall" singer
74 Toward sunup

Down
1 Marsupial pockets
2 Story-telling dance
3 Eurasian mountains
4 Cornhusk dish
5 Hood's weapon
6 Spinks' defeater
7 Kind of year
8 Matrix
9 Hams' places
10 Maine's highest peak
11 Merit
12 The E in QED
13 Moon buggy
21 June bugs
23 Green sci.
25 Pinches off
26 Pass, in Congress
28 Showed distress
29 From Hong Kong
30 Trend
31 Up for —
33 Fridge maker
34 New growth
37 Incline
39 Firing on all cylinders
41 Kind of turtle
43 Oklahoma city
46 Actual
48 He directed Marlon
51 Rock layers
53 Mr. Nielsen
55 Basted
57 Fictional plantation
58 Novelist — Paton
59 Cartoon chipmunk
61 Irene of "Fame"
62 Elevator guy
63 Pop quiz
64 Chomped down
66 Laid up
67 Mao — -tung

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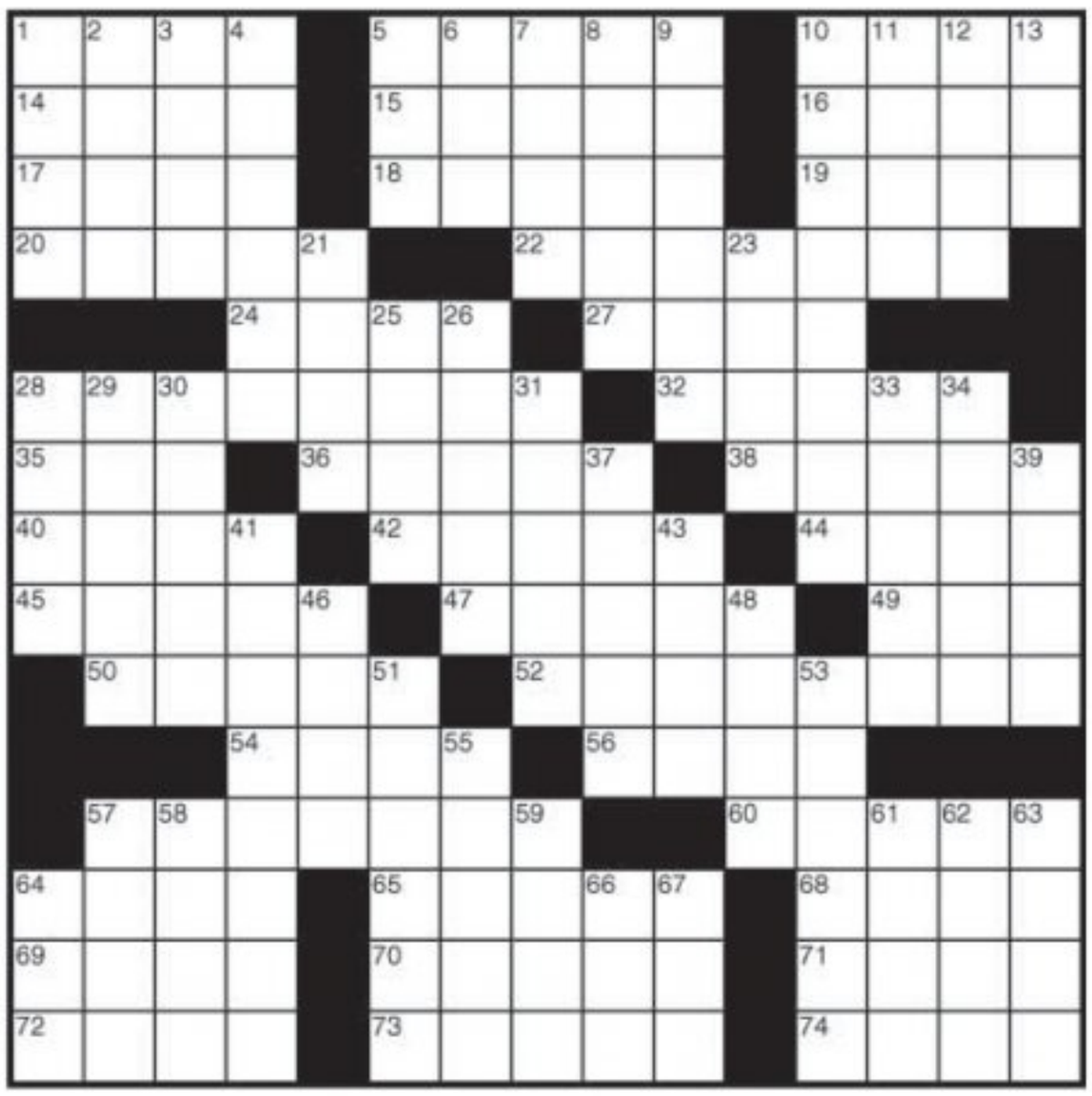

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3 SPORTS

Maclin next?

Eagles, Maclin close to contract

It seems the Eagles and Jeremy Maclin both want to make a deal work, the problem is the length. The Eagles want Maclin tied up long term, the receiver — recovering from a yearlong injury — wants a one-year pact to prove his worth.

Eagles make offense priority with signings

NFL. The Eagles have invested heavily in high-profile contract extensions for three offensive players.

The Eagles had the second best offense in all of football in 2013 and it appears they are looking to replicate the same production in 2014, after making three high-profile contract extensions with one more on the horizon.

The club announced extensions for wide receiver Riley Cooper and center Jason Kelce Thursday morning, less than a day after they extended left tackle Jason Peters five seasons.

The Cooper deal is worth $25 million over five seasons, with $10 million guaranteed. Cooper emerged as one of quarterback Nick Foles' favorite targets last season and will join DeSean Jackson as a one-two punch, with Jeremy Maclin's fate yet to be determined.

"He's got a unique skill set at the position," Eagles general manager Howie Roseman said. "He fits what we do and we are happy to have him back."

Riley Cooper and Jason Kelce joined Jason Peters as newly extended Eagles Thursday. The three combine for $42.55 million in guaranteed money. / GETTY IMAGES

Jason Kelce signed a six-year extension worth $37.5 million, with $13 million guaranteed, according to a league source. If he earns the entire amount allocated in the deal, its maximum value is $40.1 million. The $6.25 million per season he would earn would make Kelce one of the top-five paid centers in the NFL.

"Jason is the epitome of the type of player we want around here, both on and off the field," head coach Chip Kelly said in a statement. "He's tough, extremely intelligent and is a leader by his actions and by his words."

Ironically, the three extended Eagles took low key routes to the NFL. One was an undrafted free agent (Peters), one a fifth-round pick (Cooper) and one a sixth-round pick (Kelce).

"Everybody is excited and sees the enthusiasm with this team and where it is going," Kelce said. "On both sides you see a big commitment and that's huge."

EVAN MACY
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By the numbers

$109.7

Amount in millions of dollars the Eagles will pay Jason Kelce, Riley Cooper and Jason Peters if they earn the full amounts stipulated in their contracts.

36

Age tackle Peters will be if he plays out the full five years in his contract.

5

Kelce's $6.25 million salary per season makes him one of the five highest paid centers in the NFL.

835

Receiving yards in 2013 by Cooper, more than his first three seasons in the NFL combined.

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NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? SLOW PAY?

The Phillies will be without one of their lefty aces, Cole Hamels for at least two starts. / GETTY IMAGES

Phillies have options with Hamels out

MLB. The Phillies could get away with a four-man rotation until Hamels returns.

Cole Hamels had a successful bullpen session earlier this week, and reports are saying he is 100 percent healthy and will likely be pitching in Grapefruit League games in about two weeks.

But his late start, due to a bicep injury, puts the top half of the Phillies pitching rotation in limbo until he returns.

Luckily, the schedule favors the Phillies tinkering with a four-man rotation when the season begins, assuming Hamels misses only two starts, the number pitching coach Bob McClure told reporters he would miss.

If Cliff Lee, A.J. Burnett and Kyle Kendrick start the first series of the season in Texas against the Rangers, the team then has a day off before the No. 4 spot comes up.

This day off allows Lee to pitch the fifth game of the season on regular rest, the same with Burnett and Kendrick, before April 8, another day off.

The Phillies return home to open Citizens Bank Park against the Brewers on April 9, a game likely to belong to the fourth starter.

This is where Hamels, optimistically, can slip right into the action without forcing the Phillies to reach into Triple-A for a fifth starter.

Following their off-day prior to the home opener, the Phillies have 18 consecutive games without rest.

Quoted

"He is behind, but if I saw him off the street and I saw him today for his first time, he would look perfectly normal. It's just that he's started later, so he's behind."

Phillies pitching coach Bob McClure

EVAN MACY
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Adams progressing

Phillies reliever Adams throws first bullpen

Mike Adams threw for the first time in 2014 Thursday at Bright House Field in Clearwater, and the often injured set up man sounded positive after throwing from the mound for the first time.

"It went good," Adams said on Thursday. "It was probably an 85 percent bullpen [session] or so. Especially being the first one, I wasn't trying to let loose right off the bat. I wanted to make sure I got a good feel for throwing off the slope again and finding my arm slot."

Adams is scheduled to throw again Sunday. METRO

Martin injured in debut

Pitcher exits spring game with pain

The Phillies' pitching staff took another blow Thursday as Ethan Martin, a top prospect and dark horse to make the club out of camp, left after facing just four Blue Jays in the fifth inning of Thursday's 7-5 loss.

Martin had shoulder discomfort, but the extent of the injury has not been disclosed.

In the loss, Darin Ruff and John Mayberry each hit home runs and catching prospect Tommy Joseph netted an RBI in the second contest of the spring.

Kyle Kendrick is expected to start Friday against the Tigers. METRO

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NFL calendar featuring few breaks in 2014

NFL. Roger Goodell is determined to never allow the "football buzz" to cease.

There is no longer a lull on the NFL calendar. Though the league plays a full slate of games for just four months per year, which is easily the shortest time period among major pro sports, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has carefully constructed the league's calendar to have few days in which there is zero football "buzz."

The NFL Combine wrapped up this past Tuesday, with the attention now shifting to free agency, which begins on March 8 with a "pre-signing period." Teams are allowed to talk to players during that time but can't make any deals, which led to some frustration last year.

"It's like speed dating," an NFC personnel director told NFL.com in 2013. "You are allowed to talk to each other for five minutes but have to wait until the end of the evening to ask for a date."

Teams were instructed to keep the public chatter to a minimum during this time as well, leading to few leaks. For all intents and purposes, the true frenzy will begin on March 11.

Then there's the NFL Draft, which used to take place in April but will occur in early May this year — May 8-10 to be exact.

Roger Goodell / GETTY IMAGES

MATT BURKE
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Nonstop football

More than ever, the NFL is capitalizing on its popularity by spreading out it's non-game day events throughout the year.

- **Saturday, March 8:** NFL teams can begin speaking with free agents.
- **Tuesday, March 11:** NFL teams can begin to sign free agents.
- **Thursday, May 8:** First round of NFL Draft.
- **Friday, May 9:** Rounds 2-3 of draft.
- **Saturday May 10:** Rounds 4-7 of draft.

Quoted

"You are allowed to talk to each other for five minutes but have to wait until the end of the evening to ask for a date."

An anonymous NFC executive, To NFL.com on the "pre-signing period" at the start of free agency

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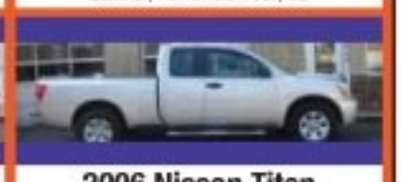
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Sixers held winless for full month of February

NBA. The 76ers are two home losses away from reaching the all-time franchise streak.

Somewhere down the road, when the Sixers are competing for an NBA championship, they'll look back and chuckle.

Right now, nothing's funny.

The 76ers have lost 12 straight games and 11 in a row at home, two shy of tying the franchise's all-time record of 13.

In the process, the Sixers went winless in February. That's right, 0-11.

Worst of the worst

1. 2011-12 Charlotte Bobcats, 7-58 (.107)
2. 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers, 9-73 (.110)
3. 1947-48 Providence Steam Rollers, 6-42 (.125)
4. 1992-93 Dallas Mavericks 11-71 (.134)
4. 1997-98 Denver Nuggets 11-71 (.134)

Their next game won't be until March 1 against the Washington Wizards when they retire Allen Iverson's No. 3 jersey.

Maybe that scene will provide a spark.

The last time the Sixers went an entire month without posting one victory came in March 1973. They went 0-13 that month as part of an NBA record-setting 9-73 season, the fewest wins any team has recorded in an 82-game season.

These numbers are staggering, but hope is on the horizon with two first-round draft picks, Nerlens Noel's return and looming free agents.

The Sixers still have to play the games and the results have been unkind.

"It can get deflating, but we have to stick together as a team," rookie point guard Michael Carter-Williams said. "We're still a team. We're still the Philadelphia 76ers and we still have something to play for, for our pride and for our city. We just need to get together and keep playing. There's always a tomorrow until the season's over, so we have to keep playing and keep up."

It won't be easy.

The next opportunity for the 76ers to end their losing streak is March 1 versus Washington. / GETTY IMAGES

Nothing has come easy for the Sixers this season. All they can do is continue to compete and hope they don't set any more dubious records.

"You see a lot in adversity and some of it's not flattering," Sixers coach Brett Brown said. "But that's what we all signed up for, to figure it all out, to weed it out, to cut to the chase, to get people in here that we know want to represent the club the way we want to represent the club."

Forward Thaddeus Young echoed similar thoughts.

"We have to come to work every day and keep getting better," he said. "We are all frustrated, but we can't get down. We have to keep our heads up and keep going back to work."

ANDY JASNER
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No. 3 for the ages

Sixers set to retire Iverson's number

He was one of the greatest ever to wear a 76ers jersey, and after a ceremony at the Wells Fargo Center on March 1, no Sixer will ever wear No. 3 again.

After this weekend, Allen Iverson's name and number will hang from the rafters, alongside greats like Charles Barkley, Wilt Chamberlain and Julius Erving.

Iverson's will be the eighth retired number in franchise history, and the 11-time All-Star, 1997 Rookie of the Year, 2001 NBA MVP and four-time scoring champion will see his legend continue to grow after the halftime ceremony during the Sixers-Wizards game.

"You know, I thought once this day came it would be basically a tragic day," Iverson said at his retirement press conference last year. "I gave everything I had to basketball and the passion is still there, the desire to play is just not. I just feel good that I'm happy with the decision I'm making. It was a great ride."

The other four 76ers retired numbers belong to Maurice Cheeks, Billy Cunningham and Bobby Jones and Hal Greer. **EVAN MACY**

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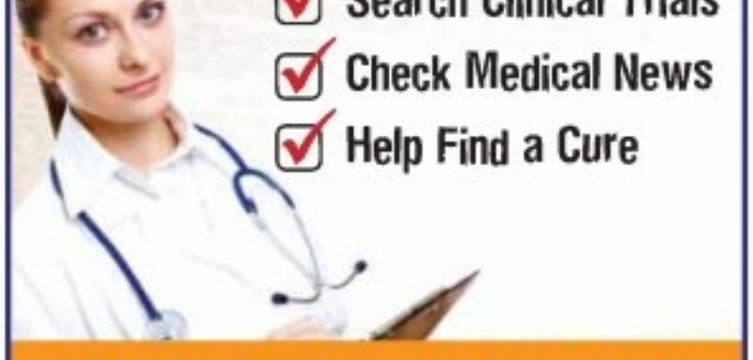

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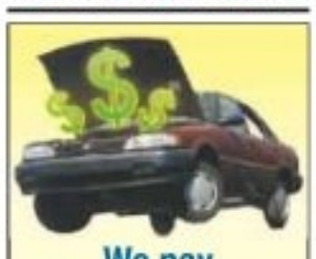

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